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AUGUST 24, 2000

Ten Commandments going back to school

By William H. Perkins Jr. first printing of 8,000 bookcovers, and people to share their faith by exercising their

Editor

Where there's a will, there's a way.

At least, that's what the Youth Ministry
Team of the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board (MBCB) believes when
it comes to getting The Ten
Commandments into schools across
Mississippi

Mississippi.

While legal battles rage throughout the country over the posting of The Ten Commandments in public locations such as courthouses and schools,

first printing of 8,000 bookcovers, and Lum predicted a second printing will be needed shortly after the initial wave of the bright-colored bookcovers and Bible studies are in the hands of youth leaders across the state.

"When students see the bookcovers, they're going to want their own," Lum said.

Lum pointed out that the goal of the project is to provide resources to help churches be most effective in reaching out to teens.

people to share their faith by exercising their power as one person to make a difference.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Nashville, Tennese

AUG 3 1 2000

Also included in the package is a detailed diagram of the meaning of the hand and a One-Minute Witness.

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

"We're hoping to put thousands of these in the hands of teenagers. We prefer churches order in bulk so the three lessons can be taught as the bookcovers are handed out.

Vol. 124
No. 28

Courthquises and schools,

Shall have a courthquise and sc

WHAT'S
IN THE RECORD

Directions 5

LifeAnswers

Sunday School lessons

Youth Ministry Team has quietly come up with a way for Christian teens to display the commandments and also share their faith with lost friends and classmates.

It's as simple as the back of your hand. As a matter of fact, that's exactly what it is — the back of your hand.

The Ten Commandments, along with the messages of God's love and the plan of salvation, are prominently displayed on the trendy bookcovers and told on the five digits and flat back of one hand.

According to Youth Ministry Team chairman Don Lum, a consultant in the MBCB Evangelism Department, the team spent five months designing the materials with the assistance of the MBCB Desktop Publishing Department.

Cooperative Program gifts funded the

the state of the second second

"We're not openly defying any court orders, and we're not trying to make a political statement. We just want to help teenagers live for Christ and be able to share their faith with their classmates.

"We believe this is a tool you can use to help your students to not only share their faith with their classmates, but also give them the encouragement and boldness they need to stand for Christ," Lum said

The bookcovers are accompanied by three Bible studies to prepare young people to utilize the bookcovers as witnessing tools. The three Bible studies are:

 The Ten Commandments — a detailed explanation of each commandment.

 Hand to Hand, A Student Witness That Changes Lives — a guide for approaching lost people with the message of salvation.

• Be The One — a challenge to young

"Without the Bible studies, all you've really got is a bunch of nice-looking bookcovers," Lum said. In addition to Lum, the MBCB Youth

In addition to Lum, the MBCB Youth Ministry Team is composed of Tammy Anderson and Robin Keels, consultants for Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union; Harvey Ellis, consultant for the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department; and Mark Lott, consultant for the MBCB Sunday School Department.

the MBCB Sunday School Department.

The bookcovers and Bible studies can be ordered free of charge by contacting Lum or Patsy Bozeman at the MBCB Evangelism Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3280 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 280. E-mail: dlum@mbch.org

mail: dlum@mbcb.org.

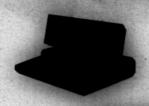
Lum also expressed the Youth Ministry
Team's desire to receive feedback on how
the bookcovers are being used to win lost
people to Christ. He asked that testimonies
be sent to him at the postal and e-mail
addresses listed above.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

GURRANA BERNICE

STORY DAPPIST HISTORY

33VHORNOMAYEAR





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From whence will they come?

A lec Guiness died on Aug. 6 at the age of 86, revered by two generations of movie goers as the wise and noble Jedi Knight, Obi-won Kenobi of Star Wars fame.

As famous as he was for his role in the Star Wars trilogy, Guiness had already enjoyed a breathtaking career before the space adventure ever beckoned.

His performance as the obstinate Colonel Nicholson in David Lean's 1957 masterpiece World War II movie, The Bridge Over the River Kwai, earned him both international acclaim and the first of two Academy Awards.

His work in that movie also garnered a spot on almost every European and American movie critic's list as one of Top 100 movie performances of all time.

The Bridge Over the River Kwai was not his first award-winning effort, however. In 1949, he played eight parts (including a female role) in the well-received Kind Hearts and Coronets, and went on to star in such timeless films as Lawrence of Arabia, Great Expectations, and Dr. Zhivago. He appeared in at least 62

He appeared in at least 62 motion pictures in his long career and received 17 major award nominations for both acting and screenwriting, including six Academy Award nominations.

He also received a Tony Award for his stage acting and was acclaimed for the role of Smiley in several television adaptations of John LeCarre novels.

In 1980, he was given an honorary Academy Award for "advancing the art of acceptance"

Academy Award for "advancing the art of screen acting," and he received his final Academy Award nomination in the early 90's for his role in an adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel, Little Dorritt.

Guiness was a devout Roman Catholic who regularly attended the small church of which he was a member, located in the English countryside.

Knighted by the British Crown, virtually all critics agree that Guiness holds a place in the four-man pantheon of greatest British actors of his generation. The other

am an International

Mission Board missionary

For years I've watched the

on medical leave, presently the pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Jackson.

dynamics of many of our Metro

Jackson churches in transitional

areas struggle with a lack of per-

sonnel, revenue, and resources.

If this is to be reversed it must

begin in the hearts of suburban

churches that have reaped the

growth. One man put the plight of the metro-area churches as "rape." By this he meant that what has occurred is a loss of

Once vibrant metro churches

are left anemic and struggling

in transitional communities

that still deserve a witness.

These areas are permeated with senior adults who have faith-

fully served Southern Baptists

but due to finances and age are

unable to move. Many watch as their neighbors of decades move on while their churches

are growing smaller, disband-

ing, dying, or relocating.

The end result is they are left.

Years of faithfully giving and serving Southern Baptists are for-

gotten as we convince ourselves

that missions involves partner-

key effective leaders.

members were Laurence Olivier, John Geilgud, and Ralph Richardson.

Guiness was a man of immense talent who captivated movie goers, stage aficionados, and television watchers for the greater part of seven decades.

He was also illegitimate. As he described in his biography, he never knew his father's name.

That's one of the most poignant aspects of his remarkable life — for if his mother had lived in modern American instead of the England of 1914, chances are that we would have never heard of Alec Guiness.

We would have never cheered for him as Colonel Nicholson or thrilled to his adventures as Obiwon. The magnificent Dr. Zhivago would have been a lesser movie.

That's because in modern America, his mother could have ended his remarkable life before it ever began.

For uncountable generations, it was embarrassing — even disgraceful — to be illegitimate, but it was not a capital offense worthy of death.

For uncountable generations, illegitimate children often grew up to be leaders who salvaged countries, statesmen who averted wars, doctors who saved lives, lawyers who righted wrongs, and even preachers who pulled people from the brink of eternal destruction.

Not so in modern America, where children like Alec Guiness are considered to be

CHILDREN ARE AN HERITAGE FROM THE LORD

nothing more than medical waste.

As politicians and special interest groups argue that it is best for children like Alec Guiness never to be born, one-third of an entire generation of Americans has been wrenched from their mothers' wombs in the name of "reproductive rights."

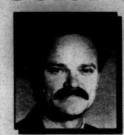
_ PSALM 127:3

From whence will come the next generation's leaders, statesmen, doctors, lawyers, and preachers? From whence will come the next Alec Guiness?

It's a fact that one-third of them will never see the light of their first day. For our society and before Almighty God, a day of reckoning will come for allowing this American Holocaust to take place.

Read the Bible, and count on it.

GUEST OPINION:



Our back door mission field

By Jeff Parker, pastor Southside Church, Jackson

ships across states and countries
— but not our own city?

Hear the heart of one of your own: The Great Commission begins in our Jerusalem. We cannot get so caught up in building our own works that we forget those who remain in these transitional areas.

As a pastor in south Jackson, I can feel the pain of these who need someone to care. We face communities filled with single parent families, children, youth with no church affiliation, senior adults, people living under bridges, and the problem — the same as overseas — that we lack resources and personnel to carry out the Great Commission.

Are there churches and families in the suburbs who feel a mission-call to return to metroarea churches and plant their lives? Is this not missions? Do we want to settle ourselves in comfortable churches where we can be ministered to rather than where we can minister? Is this the heart beat of who we are?

As a missionary I felt more support for the work in Zambabwe or England than I do right here at home. If America is to be reached, then it must begin with denominational leadership, pastors, and laity who will consider the great need to build strong metro churches!

 Too long a drive. Many drive into the city daily to work, shop, and eat. Missionary families often drive hours to go to church. • My children need to be with friends and involved in programs designed for their needs. My wife and I thought the same until we began to see that God's will is not only the best for us, it was and continues to be for our children. Africa and England had an impact on our children's lives forever. Missionary children are given the privilege of seeing critical needs met by their being there and this impacts their lives forever.

• Fear. Missionaries battle with fear, yet as Paul said to Timothy, "God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind."

South Jackson does not hold the dangers we face overseas, and if God calls us then surely he will protect us. I must say that visiting in these neighborhoods, I have never been frightened for my life; instead what I find is an openness to the Gospel, a strong sense of community, and families just like yours who face many of the same problems we all face.

Are there ten families who feel a missionary call, suburban churches that will invest in a great mission field here at our own back and the state of the state of

World ignoring Christians' extermination

JAKARTA, Indonesia (BP) — Persecuted Christians Indonesia's Ambon island face desperate conditions and the world is largely ignoring their plight, said two Americans who recently returned from a visit to the island.

As many as 500,000 Christians have been driven from their homes and more than 2,500 have been killed by Muslim "jihad" warriors who publicly

declared they will push all Christians off the island or kill them.

Christians fleeing into the mountains, flooding into refugee camps, and clogging ports to wait for the few ships ferrying refugees off the island. Meanwhile, an Indonesian government reluctant to confront the extremists is refusing to allow international intervention. Elements of the Indonesian army reportedly are assisting the jihad warriors.

Drew Stephens and Brett Ferguson, members of Riverside Church in Denver, were in a refugee camp on Ambon Aug. 1 just after Muslim fighters attacked the village of Waai, killing two dozen people.

"Villagers were coming into the camp after walking 10 hours on a trail through the mountains," said Ferguson, a broadcasting major at Metro State University in Denver and son of Riverside's pastor, Rick Ferguson. "Many of them were malnourished. There were lots of children whose parents had been killed. One baby we saw died of exposure from the long night of walking in the rain over the hills."

Ferguson and Stephens, Riverside Church's media minister, traveled to Indonesia with Imam Sugianto, a member of Riverside's Indonesian mission congregation, to videotape the **Ambonese** persecution Christians are enduring.

Members of that mission congregation — many of whom have friends and family in Indonesia — are extremely distressed that U.S. media aren't telling the story of what is happening in Ambon, Stephens said. The Ambon atrocities are not receiving nearly as much media attention as those that happened in Bosnia or

flooded with refugees, the mis-sionary received letters written by local schoolchildren to Kofi Annan, secretary general of the United Nations.

INDONESIA



ing terribly.

"It's so very difficult for our Indonesian friends to know the kind of persecution happening to their friends and family members," Stephens said. "I really felt compelled that we needed to go so we could tell the story of what's happening there, not just for those people, but also for the church in America."

The team videotaped churches that had been burned and people who had been hospitalized because of injuries inflicted by jihad warriors. They interviewed Christians in refugee camps while the sound of mortars and automatic weapons fire echoed in the distance.

An evangelical missionary reported his amazement at the faithfulness of Christians in the town of Ponegoro who were under attack by jihad forces.

"The Christians sing some of the most beautiful worship hymns of history to praise and glorify Jesus Christ even as they are under siege," he wrote. "I wept every time I heard them singing - so worshipful and yet in some ways it was like a surrender to an inevitable death and the consequent mourning."

In Passo, a Christian town

very frightened of the

and Christians on Ambon and

other of the Maluku Islands

dates at least as far back as

1945, when Muslim villages

were razed by pro-Western

separatists, according to Jubilee Campaign, a Christian human rights organization. Recent Muslim immigration

into Maluku has pushed the

Christian population into a minority status. The problem is complicated by powerful men who hope that by fund-

ing and arming Muslim insur-

gents they can topple the

moderate government of Indonesia and gain power for

in January 1999, when a dispute over bus fare between a

Muslim and a Christian esca-lated into riots. More recently,

trained fighters of the "Laskar

Jihad" (Banner of Holy War)

have entered Ambon to elimi-

nate the Christian population

and establish a Muslim state

In 20 months, 455 churches

The current violence began

Christians killed. Muslim homes, businesses mosques also have been destroyed in retaliation.

Well-armed Muslim fighters, assisted by soldiers, continue to overrun Christian towns, forcing people into refugee camps that themthreatened, selves are Ferguson said. The fighting has forced aid organizations to leave the island, and food, clothing, and medical care are

have been destroyed and 2,500

in short supply.

Catholic, Protestant, and evangelical leaders in Ambon have expressed concern to the United States and the European Union, saying they feel the world is ignoring the crisis. Human rights organizations are calling for military intervention



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE



to stop the violence and open an emergency humanitarian aid corridor.

They also are urging the Indonesian government to allow an impartial investigation of the crisis by United Nations human rights observers.

Christian groups are calling believers worldwide to pray not only for the refugees but also for the persecutors.

"The situation remains deadly dangerous, and our prayers are critical," said Randy Sprinkle, director of Southern International Mission Board's prayer strategy office.
"Please join me in pleading

[God's] mercy and praying his perfect will be done among the Christians of Ambon.

"Pray also for the Muslims there, that God's love in Christ might be so powerfully evident that they would throw down their guns and turn to the Savior in repentance and saving faith."

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Sierra Leone sees revival

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (BP) — More than 11,500 people thousands of Muslims among them — made public decisions for Christ in April when an evangelistic campaign was conducted in war-ravaged Sierra Leone. A team of 27 evangelists from International Crusades and the International Mission Board joined churches of the Baptist Convention of Sierra Leone to witness to unsaved victims of war in Freetown.

Since 1991, rebels of the Revolutionary United Front have been attacking civilians in order to gain control of the country's diamond mining regions. They cut off hands, arms, legs, and other body parts and carve the letters RUF in the chests of their victims. Women and young girls are taken captive as sex slaves and domestic laborers.

As villages are destroyed by vandalism, thousands of refugees are left to cope with the loss of homes and families.

With the need for deliverance come offers of hope from God's people. "A simultaneous outpouring of God's Spirit was reported by evangelism teams in every location where visitation and crusade meetings were being held," said Southern Baptist missionary Ron Hill.

One Baptist church doubled in size in one day, Hill said. The next day, a single visitation team led 64 people to Jesus.

Looking back

10 years ago

on the island.

themselves.

U.S. Air Force Major Gerald Knighton, former pastor of Fayette Church, Fayette, will leave his position as Chaplain of Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. Knighton has provided a Christian witness to more than 700 families who came to bury loved ones in the cemetery.

20 years ago

The Real Life Singers of Mt. Vernon Church, Newton, travel to the Olean, N.Y., area for a mission trip that includes Backyard Bible Clubs, puppet shows, one-on-one witnessing, and concerts in several local churches. More than 42 children make professions of faith.

50 years ago

Harry Lee Spencer, a native of Carroll County and former pastor of Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, will be returning from his current Texas pastorate to assume the position of Secretary for the six-year-old Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

Volunteers descend on Tchula for missions

By Jim Newton, correspondent Miss. Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

More than 100 volunteers from a dozen churches joined forces with Grace

Community Church in Tchula on July 24-29, seeking to "build bridges of hope and change" in the

Mississippi Delta.

Most were part of a one-week mission project organized by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) of Mississippi as the first of a series of ongoing volunteer mis-

sions projects.

About 30 volunteers led a Vacation Bible School (VBS) for about 90 children; another 30 volunteers did construction work; about 25 volunteers were involved in a one-day health fair; about 15 volunteers organized and sorted clothing and household goods for a sale at a church-sponsored thrift store in nearby Lexington; and several others did construction work at a Christian Women's Job Corps

(CWJC) site in Lexington.

Mississippi CBF coordinator

Bradley Pope of Clinton said the project was "highly successful," and

We are planning to sponsor some kind of volunteer construction project one Saturday of each month to continue the work in Tchula and at other African-American churches in

Mississippi," said Pope. "We will start small and build an ongoing program, focusing first on three counties in the Delta which are among the 20 poorest counties in the U.S."

He praised the work done by Richard Brogan in planning and organizing the effort and recruiting the volunteers from 10 Brogan churches. retired in January from the Mississippi Baptist Board Convention after 36 years at the board and Mississippi Baptist Seminary.

Since retiring, Brogan has served as missions consultant for Mississippi CBF.

Brogan said he hopes the project will result in long-term relationships that can make a difference in the lives of the people of Tchula.

Shaye Smith of Clinton, a member of Northminster Church, lackson, said she was

o touched by the children involved in VBS that she and several other women want to mentor some of the children in an ongoing, one-on-one ministry in the future.

'We'd like to work with Robert and Von Brown of Grace Community Church in selecting several children who can be assigned to a mentor or sponsor who would help provide the children with clothing and school supplies, and take them on field trips to museums, movies, or the Jackson Zoo," she said. "It broke our hearts to see the homes

where these children live. One of the little

girls cried the day we had to leave. We want to do more than just lead a VBS for them," Smith said.

Six children made professions of faith



OPEN WIDE — Jackson dentist George Taybos examines a tor of corporate communications was the first step toward an ongo- woman for early signs of oral cancer at the Health Fair July 29 for Mississippi Blood Services in ing volunteer missions program in at Grace Community Church in Tchula. (Photo by Jim Newton) Jackson, coordinated the health ing volunteer missions program in at Grace Community Church in Tchula. (Photo by Jim Newton)

Mississippi planned by CBF.

during VBS, according to John Hendrix, pastor of Northside Church, Clinton.

When VBS ended, Hendrix invited 16 of the teenage boys from Tchula to go swimming in the pool at the Hampton Inn in Greenwood, where he was staying, to help him celebrate his 65th birthday. About a dozen of the boys had never been in a swimming pool and didn't know how to swim, but Hendrix said the boys loved it and didn't want to get out of the pool.

Bill Stewart, a lawyer and engineer from Clinton, said the volunteers involved in construction did framing work and electrical wiring to remodel what once was a furniture store into a worship center with Sunday School classrooms and offices.

Stewart said the volunteers did a lot of good work that the local people will enjoy when they use the facilities.

"There was also a tremendous value in the fun and fellowship the volunteers experienced in working together. We learned it really is better to give than to receive," he said.

Richard Joiner, a construction volunteer from Mt. Sinai Church in Tupelo, amazed and inspired others with his ability to do construction work even though he is blind. Joiner, who is also an auto mechanic, said he could hammer nails and install sheetrock by "feeling" rather than "seeing."

Don West, a professional carpenter from Tupelo, said he worked for two days with Richard on another project before he realized Joiner was blind. "His eyes are his fingers," West said.

A message of hope was also brought by Johnny Cooks, administrative assistant to Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove. Cooks is a former All-America football player at Mississippi State University, and he played professional football for 10 years.

Cooks, who said he grew up in a shotgun house in Leland, urged Tchula youth to get an education and be the best they can be — but to never forget their roots. He showed his Super Bowl ring, but he said his high school and college diplomas were even more valuable to him.

Stewart, who organized the construction teams, said the greatest need in Tchula is for jobs and economic development, because young people there have "no hope" of finding a job in Tchula.

Stewart said he is working with the Browns and others on a long-range project to try to establish a poultry processing plant in Tchula. He and others have written

grant that is currently being reviewed by the Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development.

The construction project included finishing the trim carpentry and cabinetry at the "New 2 U Thrift Store" in Lexington, where the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union-sponsored CWJC will meet to train women how to qualify for employment.

Jean Hunt of Clinton said volunteers gave four or five pickup trucks of clothing, toys, and house-hold goods to the thrift store, and then sorted and priced the merchandise for sale.

On July 29, the worship center at Grace Community Church was rearranged to house a health fair, with about 30 healthcare volunteers providing medical services to more than 100 Tchula residents

mostly women and children.

Landa Strum of Clinton, direcfair, which provided health risk

assessment, smoking cessation tips, immunizations for children, blood tests, breast cancer screenings, back safety and scoliosis evaluations, cardiovascular and stroke evaluation, and other medical services.

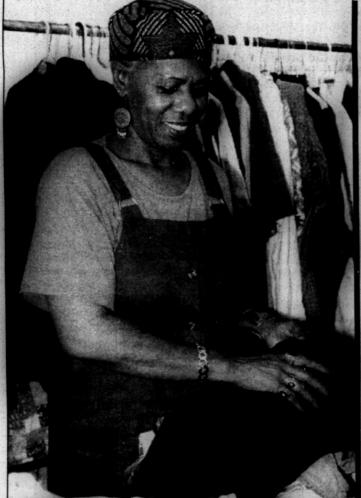
"There are tremendous medical needs here in Tchula, and these people need much more than just an annual health fair," said Jackson dentist George Taybos.

Pope said the Tchula mission project was only the first of many mission projects Mississippi CBF is planning that will build bridges of hope and change in the Delta and throughout the state.

For more information on CBF missions, contact Brogan at 120 North Congress Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Telephone: (601) 355-7824



ON THE MARK - John Breazeale of Starkville, a volunteer for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) of Mississippi, cuts wood to length for finish trim work at the new Christian Women's Job Corps facility in Tchula. (Photo by Jim Newton)



BEST BUY Dean Hopper, a member of Grace Community Church in Tchula, sorts clothes for sale at the "New 2 U Thrift Store" owned by Grace Church. (Photo by

Miss. college students to gather Sept. 15-16

By Tim Nicholas MBCB staff writer

Students from virtually every college campus in Mississippi will fill Hattiesburg's Lake Terrace Convention Center on September 15-16 for the annual College Student Conference sponsored by the Collegiate Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

More than 1,500 students will hear challenges to live the Christian life both on and

off campus.

"We are really excited about our state

College Student Conference this year for a lot of new reasons," said Jerry Merriman, director of the Collegiate Ministry Department.

"We have a new venue — the Hattiesburg Convention Center," said Merriman, "and an exciting program format including late night features, exhibits, and small group activities.

group activities.

"We are anticipating the largest college student gathering in recent years from 34 campuses and churches across the state," Merriman said.

SOUNDS IN THE NIGHT

Plenary speaker will be Dave Edwards two purposes, according to Lloyd of Oklahoma City, a member of the so-called "Generation X," who applies Union at USM, and

called "Generation X," who applies biblical truths to everyday experiences in a humorous and understandable form.

Principal musician will be Jami Smith, also of Oklahoma City, whose music is aimed at "manifesting the presence of God," she said.

"I hope we will encounter God and be vulnerable in his presence. I'm seeing college students not being afraid to express themselves to God and find out who he is,"

said Smith, who sings before young people on a daily basis.

Late night options at 10 p.m. on September 15 include a coffee house and an outdoor concert by the band, "Refuge." The concert is open to the public and is free

is open to the public and is free.

A special feature of the conference will be 100 small group sessions, led by students from the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in Hattiesburg, Baptist-affiliated William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, and Pearl River Community College in Poplarville.

The small group sessions have



Smith

small group chair: "We want to give students a picture that Baptist Student Union is bigger than just what is

Student Union is bigger than just what is happening on their individual campuses," he said.

The second purpose is to focus students on Christian missions.

"We will be challenging at least two students from each group to apply for summer missions," Lunceford said

Student Summer Missions is a Mississippi Baptist

Student Union program. College students are appointed to serve in the United States and abroad for 10-week terms of mission service. They and fellow students raise all expenses. In 2000, 115 students served in 23 states and six foreign countries.

The College Student Conference is a ministry of the Cooperative Program. For more information, log onto www.mbcb.org/bsucsc. Telephone: (601) 292-3299 or toll-free outside Jackson (800)

748-1651, ext. 299.

Edwards

Directions 1

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

A dear, long-time friend of mine lives alone. She raised a fine family, had a good life with her husband for over a half-century, and now lives all alone. In her mid-80's, she is still a strong, hard-working, courageous lady. She is also an alert and cautious person. Recently, late in the night, she heard a prowler. Quietly, she looked around but could see no one. Still, she was sure someone was outside. She could hear them! Cautiously she went to the phone and dialed 911. In short order, a policeman arrived at her home. She welcomed him to come help her. She began describing what had been taking place, emphasizing that she just knew a prowler was outside of her house. She convinced the policeman and he began looking all around, but to no avail. He concluded that apparently he, or something, had scared this prowler off.

The policeman asked my friend some questions regarding things around the house, and discovered she had a deepfreeze on her back porch. They went back to the porch to check it out, but nothing looked as if it had been disturbed. The policeman surmised that maybe this was what the prowler was after access to the deepfreeze. My friend went back to bed and tried to go back to sleep, keeping one eye open, and one ear tuned to the outside. With the policeman gone, and darkness covering the house again, it wasn't long until the rustling outside returned. She just couldn't figure it out, but since it wasn't bothering her, she finally drifted off to sleep and got some rest.

All of us have "sounds in the night" that disturb us. Sometimes the "sounds in the night" come in the daytime — those unseen, unknown, indescribable things around us that bother us. We're not sure what they are, and do not know how to deal with them. Our imagination runs wild, and our fears begin to run deep. Sometimes those "sounds in the night" are related to health, or job, or friends, or family. We try to figure it out, find it out, work it out even call 911! Still, the answers do not come. We are robbed of rest and diverted from doing other things, and the "sounds in

the night" seem to persist.

I am grateful that God gave a word to us through the Apostle Paul as he wrote to Timothy, "God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of love, and power, and of a sound mind." What God has provided for us overcomes the unseen and uncertain things outside the window of life — those things hidden in the shadowy recesses of the darkness. God gives us love, and power, and soundness of mind. Love to stabilize our spirits; power and strength to remind us that he is in control; and soundness of mind to allow us to think through what really is going on — what is actually happening — in order to know if there is any real reason to be afraid. Sometimes there is that real danger, and we can deal with that. Sometimes there isn't, and we can deal with that, too. God has given us some personal, spiritual equipment whereby we can cope with life, deal with

with life, deal with life, and manage the "sounds in the night."

Early the next morning, my sweet friend got up with the sounds on her mind, and continued to wonder, "What is out there?" Getting ready to face the day, she ventured out and began looking to see if there was any evidence of who had been prowling around. She was looking to see if anything had been disturbed, or if the prowler had taken anything. This strong, determined lady, now turned detective, searched around in her backyard and as she investigated the area around the deepfreeze, she saw him—in a bucket! There was the prowler—a possum! He was curled up in the bottom of the bucket, and he could

not get out! Off and on during the night he had tried desperately to get out, bumping and clanging around, scraping the sides of the bucket, and trying with all his might to make his escape. He was the prowler! He was the "sounds in the night!" My friend was relieved. She immediately called her policeman friend to tell him of her discovery and they chuckled together about the events of the night before.

By the grace of God, all of us have opportunities to smile, even to laugh deeply within our spirit, at the sounds that bother us in the night. Southwestern approved for music Ph.D.

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)
— Southwestern Seminary in
Fort Worth has been approved
to offer a Ph.D. in church music
by the National Association of
Schools of Music.

William Colson, assistant dean of Southwestern's school of church music, said the process to develop the degree began about 10 years ago when the program was separated from the doctor of musical arts to give students a degree option that emphasized academics more and performance less.

More seminar work is required in the Ph.D. program and less time spent in performance-related areas, which is the concentration of the D.M.A. More language-related work is also required for the Ph.D.

All doctoral students must be able to translate German. Ph.D. students must also pass a reading test in a second foreign language, which in most cases is French.

The degree requires about 42 hours of seminar course work, an oral examination and a dissertation. As of spring 2000 semester, five students were enrolled in the program.

NIV Bible tops pastors' poll

PHOENIX (ABP) — The New International Version of the Holy Bible emerged as the most popular Bible translation in a nationwide poll of Protestant ministers, 34% of whom said they are most likely to rely on the NIV in their work. The traditional King James Version was favored by 24% of the pastors, followed by the New Revised Standard Version (17%), the New King James Version (10%) and the New American Standard (9%).

Other versions, including the New Living Translation, The Message, the Living Bible, the Contemporary English Version, and the Amplified Bible, were each named by less than two percent of the pastors.

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turbed, or if the prowler had taken anything. This strong, determined lady, now turned detective, searched around in her backyard and as she investigated the

area around the deep-freeze, she saw him—in a bucket! There was the prowler—a possum! He was curled up in the bottom of the bucket, and he could

RECORD



Ground breaking at Carterville Church, Petal

Earl Ezell, pastor, dies

Earl Ezell, 65, pastor of Sapa Church, Eupora, died of heart failure Aug. 4 at Webster Health Services in Eupora.

Funeral services were held Aug. 8 Oliver Funeral Home in Eupora with burial a p Cemetery. Ezell was



graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He was ordained and licensed by Calvary Church, Greenwood. He served the following churches: Mount Vernon, West; First Church, Vaiden; Second Church, Kosciusko; Meadowood Church, Amory; Southside Church, Greenville; and has been the pastor for Sapa Church, Eupora, from 1997 until the present.

He is survived by his wife Zenobia Shurden Ezell of Eupora; daughters, Melanie Flippo of Amory, and Gwenda Sanderson of Augusta, Ga.; mother, Grace Causey Ezell, Eupora; brother, Willie Ezell of Carrollton; and grandchildren, Dave Flippo, Matt Flippo, and

Brooke Sanderson.
A steeple will be donated to Sapa Church as a memorial to Ezell.

Carterville Church, Petal, held a ground breaking cere-mony for its new multi-use facility on Sunday, July 16. The multi-use facility will house needed educational space, a new commercial kitchen, a large hall equipped with a stage to serve as the fellowship hall and to be utilized for special programs and ministry opportunities. Building committee (pictured from left) are Ricky Oberst; Kim Pace; Lonnie Young; Sylvia Truitt; Max Sills; David Lee, chairman; Diane Byrd; Leland Hogan, pastor;

Strait Gate, a gospel trio from Nashville, Tenn., will give a concert at Wesson Church, Copiah Association, on Sept. 3

Don McClesky, architect; and

Velma Spalding.

at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (601) 643-5722.

Siloam Church, Magee, will celebrate its 107th anniversary on Aug. 27 at 11 a.m. Mike Davis, former pastor, will preach the 11 a.m. message. Jerry Sullivan will bring the 1 p.m. message. Noon meal will be served in the fellowship hall. Revival will be held from Aug. 28-30.

Holly Church, Corinth, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on Sept. 9-10. An open house will be held on Saturday from 1-5 p.m. Sunday services will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a meal in the fellowship hall. There will be special service after the meal. Keith Dowden is pastor.



Note burning for the new educational building at Morgan Chapel Church, Sturgis, was held on June 25. The building includes nine new classrooms, nursery, kitchen, fellowship hall, storage, and restrooms. The church began paying for the building in April 1998 and paid it off in full on June 5, 2000.

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- **Bucket Seats**
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- 1998 Model: \$28,500 (Low Miles) * 15 Passengers

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RAs irst Church, Maben, con-structed and sold bluebird houses to raise over \$500 for Annie Armstrong H o m e Mission Offering RAs pictured Lance are Crowley, Chad Fulgham, Kirk Pennington, M a Seawright, Shuffield, and Lamar Simmons. Charles Fulgham is



RAs of First Church, Maben



Ground breaking services for a family life building were held at First Church, Philadelphia, on June 4. Pictured (from left) are Sammy Oswalt, contractor, Jim McCleskey, architect; Glenn Perry, chairman of building committee; Dan Howard, pastor; Max Loper, chairman of deacons, and Don Kilgore, chairman of Challenge to Build com-

GARAGE SALE September 1 & 2

CITY-WIDE, INNER-CHURCH

Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton

Proceeds go to support the salary for the recruiting ministry of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary. The recruiting ministry is at the heart of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists vision to reach Canada for Christ.

Your donations are needed in order to have enough merchandise to sell for two days. Please contact the following individuals to arrange for pick up or drop off of donations; to support the ministry in prayer; assist in picking up donations; or work during the garage sale.

Morrison Heights **Baptist Church** Randy Bower: (601) 924-7082 Judy Williams: (601) 924-5283

Broadmoor Baptist Church Sue Dockery: (601) 925-5333 Nancy Parker: (601) 957-7963

First Baptist Church of Clinton Sandra Nash: (601) 924-9205 Charles Malone: (601) 924-0596

Country Woods Baptist Church Tammy Miller: (601) 373-5880 (wk)

EXPERT WORK . BIG SAVINGS ROOM ADDITIONS SUNROOM BATH-DEN KITCHEN SENIOR CARPORT DISCOUN

CALL 1-888-373-0054 PAY-less Home Improvements 2000 Model: \$34,000 (New)

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

August 24, 2000

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



August 25-26 at Camp Garaywa

Friday 5 - 10 pm, Saturday 9 am - 12:30 pm

Special interest conferences include:

- Praying Parent
- Financially Confident Woman
 - Spanish Ministry Ideas
 - Sisters Who Care
 - Men's Ministry
 - Growing a Praying Church
 - Disaster Relief
 - Mississippi Partnerships
- And about a dozen more!!!

For info, call: WMU, 1-800-748-1651 or 1-601-292-3316 Jackson area

Women's Prayer Celebration Retreat

Speaker: Chris Adams Musicians: Donna Lundell and Pam Weigle Missionary Emphasis: Paula Smith

September 29-30, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly Seminars:

- Gifts from the Heart Deboria Watts
- Transformed Lives: Taking Women's Ministry to the Next Level **Chris Adams**
- Sisters Who Care Debora Joiner
- Launching Language Ministries Paula Smith
- Plus many more led by the Women of the State Visionary Team

Registration No refunds after 9/5/00 Association Church **Address** E-mail Phone_ E-mail Phone_ Contact Person

x Cost Per Person=Total enclosed \$ Number of Women __

(Please attach a sheet with the names of the women) Cost: \$50 (lodging, 3 meals and registration)

\$28.25 (no lodging/includes registration and meals)

\$13 (registration fee only/no lodging, no meals) Make checks payable to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Mail to: Women's Retreat, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street

Pass Christian, MS 39571

For info contact Kathy Burns: 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson, 968-3800, kburns@mbcb.org

Adult Reading and Writing/NAMB Certification



ARW Literacy Workshop

September 14-16

Instructor: Juanita Schilling

Pearl River Baptist Association Camp (601)798-2372 \$45 includes meals and registration fee

Thursday 6-10 pm Friday 6-10 pm Saturday 8 am-5 pm

You must complete all class times to receive ARW certification from NAMB.

	REGISTRATION (Dea			
Contact	Number Attending			
Address		City	Zip	
Phone	E-mail	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH		
Church		ociation	PHONE THE	
Please indicate how n	nany bunks are needed (bring x Cost Per Pe	ng own linens):	_ RV hookups:	
	VMLI/ARW Literacy Works			

For more info: 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson, 968-3800

a Generation Seeking Gon Wednesday, September 20 A GENERATION SEEKING GOD Resource materials: www.syatp.com 1-817-447-7526 = 1-817-His Plan Please report your numbers to Don Lum at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

www.dlum@mbcb.org, 1-800-748-1651, 601-968-3800 (Jackson)

STATE TANDBELL LEADERSHIP **SEMINAR**

SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2000 McLaurin Heights Baptist Church Pearl, Miss.



CLINICIANS: Carol Joy Sparkman, Mississippi College, and Jerry Talley, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

HANDBELL LEADERSHIP CLASSES

The past few years have seen many innovations in handbell ringing and technique. These new and improved techniques can improve your handbell choirs! Carol Joy Sparkman and Jerry Talley will be leading classes and large group sessions that will seek to introduce and give you a start in the continued growth of your choirs. Classes will be more in depth with hands-on instruction. Whether you are a new or experienced director, help will be available to guide you.

State Handbell Leadership **REGISTRATION FORM** ASSN. NAME CHURCH ___ **ADDRESS** Please indicate the classes you plan to attend: Advanced Techniques Beginning Handbell Directors All registrants will attend ringing for accuracy, more ringing techniques and reading sessions. Music Packet II Music Packet I * (Young Ringers Packet, \$15 each) * (State Handbell Festival Packet, \$20 each) Please enclose the registration fee of \$10 per person which includes a handbell music packet. TOTAL Number Attending from Your Church TOTAL Amount Enclosed * Music packets may be purchased at the seminar. Mail to the CHURCH MUSIC DEPARTMENT, HANDBELL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR, P.O. BOX 530, JACKSON, MS 39205-0530.



Don't Forget to Bring Your Gloves!

HANDBELL LEADERSHIP

Schedule

Friday, September 15

5:30 p.m. Registration 6:30 p.m. Welcome

Reading Session No. 1 6:45 p.m.

Ringing for Accuracy 7:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m. Classes

Advanced Techniques

- Sparkman **Beginning Handbell** Directors - Talley

9:30 p.m. Adjourn

Saturday, September 16

8:00 a.m. Coffee and donuts More Ringing Techniques 8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.

Advanced Techniques Continued - Sparkman Beginning Handbell **Directors Continued**

- Talley

10:30 a.m. Break

Reading Session No. 2

Adjourn

"POPS" and ME Day

PARENTS of PRESCHOOLERS and ME Age 3 (by Sept. 1, 2000) through Pre-First

September 16 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Camp Garaywa Cost: \$5 (includes lunch)

Bring your parents, teachers, caregivers and come join us for crafts, music and time with a missionary!

> Registration Form (deadline September 1) Please print

Parent(s) Name(s)	
	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE WASHINGTON
Child's Name(s)	
Phone Number	
Church	
Total No. of participants	x \$5 = total amount enclosed

Mail form & check to: WMU, "POPS" and ME Day, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205 For info call: Debbie Sills (601)292-3320 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651

Women Reaching Women Retreat

Central Hills Baptist Retreat October 20-21 Kosciusko

Emphasis: "Make Known the Mystery Throughout Mississippi"

Breakout session choices:

- Titus 2 Women the great Mentoring Match-up
- HeartCall Women sharing God's Heart (Bring a woman with you who needs Jesus and/or bring the one who knows Jesus

because you led her to the Lord.)

- The Virtuous Woman bring collegiate and young women with you! Mission Opportunities in Mississippi - all kinds of ways to be involved
 - locally and globally
- y Confident Woman great \$\$\$\$ helps! My Prayer Life - practical information from a practicing prayer warrior

REGISTRATION (DEADLINE TO REGISTER: OCTOBER 13)

Church		Association			
Address	A STATE OF THE STA	City	Zip		Same of
Phone	E-mail				THOSE, W
Contact Person		Phone	E-mail_		2.17.28.65
Number of Women	_x \$40 =	Total enclosed \$	1.04		(E) pargrid
(Please	attach a sl	heet with the nan	nes of the wo	omen)	(Carifu)

Cost: \$40 (lodging, 3 meals and registration.)

Mail to: WMU, Women Reaching Women Retreat, PO Box 530 Jackson MS 39205 for more info: 1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson, 968-3800



Strategy Tou

FBC, Vancleave, October 16 FBC, Lucedale, October 23

With the renewed interest in Sunday School and a focus on Sunday School for a New Century, people all over the state are learning anew the importance of reaching out. There are also a variety of outreach programs and strategies to aid in helping fellow Christians follow the Great Commission in reaching others.

But which one is right for your church?

The Outreach Strategy Tour is a conference designed to help your church decide and plan an outreach program tailored to the needs of your congregation. The morning session, from 9 a.m. to noon, is specifically designed for pastors and key leaders to discuss some basic elements of forming an outreach strategy, and begin designing a strategy for the local church. That evening, from 7-9 p.m., all the Sunday School leadership will be involved in learning more about how to reach their age group for Christ. In addition, consultants will be available by appointment throughout the afternoon to discuss any specific needs in your ministry area.

If we receive the completed registration form by September 27, your church will receive demographics of your area, useful in planning an outreach strategy. One per church, please. All other participants need to register by October 9, 2000.

Schedule for both locations:

Outreach Strategy for Pastors and Staff 9 a.m.-noon

Individual Consultations Available (call our office to schedule) Afternoon Outreach through the Sunday School/Age Group Outreach Training 7-9 p.m.

aculty:

	FBC, Vancleave October 16	FBC, Lucedale October 23		
Preschool:	Melinda Jones	Melinda Jones		
Children:	Betty Davis	Linda Reeves		
Youth:	Mark Lott	Brian McKee		
Adult:	Brenda Davis	Bill Ready		
General Officer:	John Clendinning	John Clendinning		
	David Wills	David Wills		

Registration Form Outreach Strategy Tour

Church Phone	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Contact person	
Location:	

Demographics Requested by (choose one only)

Zip code (please specify) Mile Radius from church North/South/East/West Boundaries (name streets/highways)

Mail to:

Sunday School Department, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530 Phone 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 in Jackson E-mail: ss@mbcb.org Register online: www.mbcb.org/ss

AGELESS MOTHER/DAUGHTER OVERNIGHT

"NEVER the Same" October 13-14. Camp Garaywa

Any daughter ages 5 - 105+ and their mother are invited. (Grandmothers, Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, Granddaughters) Cost: \$27.50 per person

All overnights begin at 5 pm Friday and conclude at 2 pm Saturday

Registration Form - Deadline September 29

Parent's Name Daughter's Name/Age					troit g
Address	City		_State_	_Zip_	
Phone number	(H)				_(W)
Church Name	Assoc	iation			
Emergency Contact: Name	10 TO		Phone _		
Number attending x	\$27.50 = \$			tal encl	

Mail to: WMU. Ageless Mother/Daughter Overnight, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Conversational English and English as a Second Language **NAMB** Certification September 14-16 Instructor: Gwen Allen

CE/ESL Workshop

Place: Pontotoc Association (662)489-1251 Cost: \$25 includes materials and lunch on Saturday. Registration deadline: September 7

You must complete all class times to receive CE/ESL certification from NAMB. Friday 6-10 pm Saturday 8 am-5 pm Thursday 6-10 pm

Contact the WMU for more info: 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800

Pray this day for ...

August 25-September 7, 2000

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

OUR WELCOME MAT - "Sincere prayer expresses to God our desire for him. It is our "welcome mat." Our unwillingness to spend time with him in prayer exposes our lack of interest in having him spend time with us in revival. Prayer prepares use for his presence." Eddie Smith from UPLINK

Missionary Tara Teynor is discipling two young ladies in Peru, who are new believers needing a firm foundation in biblical doctrine. Both speak Spanish and Quechua, therefore, pray that God will give them the desire to share their faith.

For (1) Discipleship Training Launch Day (D&FM); (2) Sunday School Launch Week (SS Emphasis); (3) Ask God's help in states. They are expected to burn until it snows. We know what God can do!

For (1) Senior Adult Regional Rally (D&FM); (2) Missionaries in Taiwan ask you to pray for three boys from three different families vacationing in the United States with Christian families. Pray that these boys will become Christians and will lead their families to Christ.

Pray for an ex-priest (12 years in priesthood) in Baganda, Uganda, recently led to trust Christ by Robert Whitefield, an ISC worker. He received Christ after talking with Robert about their beliefs. Pray for the great work the Lord is doing in his life.

For (1) Mississippi Baptist **Convention Board Executive** Committee Meeting, Baptist Building; (2) Mississippi Bapt Building; (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting, Baptist Building, (3) Senior Adult Regional Rally, FBC, Madison (Discipleship & Family Ministry).

For (1) Baptist Building STAFF PLANNING DAYS; (2) The Asheninca Team writes: "Three young single men are 'in the process' to come to Peru and work among the Asheninca people. Pray for them in their preparation

Missionary nurse Freida Adams, interim director of the Counseling Center in El Triga, Venezuela, ministers to urban professionals. Pray that she will have wisdom in helping those who are attending the 12-Step Program. They need to heal emotionally and spiritually.

Over a year ago many people began praying for the digging of a well (through solid rock) in Ciwkon, Senegal. Missionary Ken Hills reports that there are now several inches of water in the well.
Continue to pay for the safe completion of this project. For (1) Senior Adult Rally, FBC, Laurel (D&FM); (2) Norman Lockwood, church planter in Ashmore, Ill., is pastoring the Faith Baptist Mission in Neoga. Pray for volunteers for the food bank at this mission, as well as the

Praise God for open doors to missionaries Ron and Rhonda Emmons in Thailand. They write: "We are teaching English as a second language at three area schools, telling the gospel story in the classroom in their language. Please pray for more teachers."

For (1) Missions Explosion, Camp Garaywa (WMU); (2) Please pray today for President Miquel Angel Rodriquez of Costa Rica, and for Prime Minister Zlatko Matesa of Croatia.

For (1) The Season of Prayer for State Missions during the month of September; (2) After severe flooding in North Korea, there has been an acute food shortage in many areas. Pray that laws in North Korea that restrict the preaching of the Gospel will be changed.

For (1) Teaching Handbell Skills for Ringers (Church Music), (2) **Daniel Cookson, state ministry** evangelism director for the Colorado Baptist General Convention, is starting a new corporation, the Marketplace Samaritans. It will promote chap-laincy in the marketplace.

New believers among the Mestizo people in Quito, Ecuador, are facing ridicule and challenge for being an "evangelical." Pray that they will allow the power of the Holy Spirit to work in their lives to be bold and faithful in their walk with the Lord.



a moment to send a card to encourage uldren of our missionaries

4-90
MR. MICAH S. MCCALL
PO Box 5864 Targa, Tanzania
Parents: Dennis & Margaret, Agriculture, SERVE IN TANZANIA

4-90 MISS ANN MARIE PEVEY

c/o Eastern Africa Office, International Mission Board PO Box 6767, Richmond VA 23230 Parents: Frank, Jr., & Jerry Anne, Mission Administration SERVE IN EASTERN AFRICA

5-86 MISS JESSICA L. BAKER

Apartado 61-74, Guadalajara, Jalisco, 44360, MEXICO Parents: Kenneth & Lynn, Dentistry, SERVE IN MIDDLE AMERICA

6-94
ADAM S. CROCKER
Casilla 3168, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA
Parents: George & Ginger Crocker, Sports Evangelism, SERVE IN
WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA

9-98
MADISON H. CROCKER
Casilla 3168, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA
Parents: George & Ginger Crocker, Sports Evangelism, SERVE IN
WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA

MISS MELISSA K. SHEARER
12 Crosswoods Rd., Brandon, MS 39042
Parents: Kevin & Pam, General Evangelism
SERVE IN WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA

MISS VICTORIA L. HARRISON Apartado 373, San Pedro Sula, HONDURAS Parents: Frank, III & Phoebe, Youth Evangelism SERVE IN MIDDLE AMERICA

19-79 MR. JOHN M. VAUGHN OBU Box 4274, Arkadelphia, AR 71998 Parents: John and Judy Vaughn, Evangelism SERVE IN SOUTH BRAZIL

19-95 MISS MELODY BAILEY 506 S. West St., Ripley, MS 38663 Parents: Alvin & Elizabeth, Music Promotion SERVE IN MIDDLE AMERICA

27-83 MISS HANNAH M. GRAY Rua Professor Manuel Ferreira, 171 Apt 1108 Gavea 22451-030

Rio de Janeiro/RJ, BRAZIL
Parents: Tony & Karen, Music Promotion
EASTERN SOUTH AMERICA

MISS CHELSEA L. FUNDERBURK
01 B.P. 6491, Abidjan 01, COTE D'IVOIRE (IVORY COAST)
Parents: Rickey & Lori, Mission Administration

MR. TRAVIS RACEY
Casilla 50-D, Temuco, CHILE
Parents: Michael & Annette, General Evangelism
WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA

Little Town in the Auditor Manager Control of the C

31-80
MISS GINNY R. THOMAS
PO BOX 4894, Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: Robert & Beverly Thomas, Nursing Education

CORRECTED ADDRESS FOR SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY Apartado Postal #1-14, 52141 Metepec, EDO MEXICO Parents: Elvin & Janet, General Evangelism, SERVE IN MEXICO





1-3 grade GAs of First Church, Indianola

was held at First Church, Indianola, on June 28. GAs in

grades 1-3 (pic-tured, back row) are Madison Spencer, Anna Clara Winters, Mary Kathryn Robertson, Tara Spencer, Anna Daniels, Taylor Lott, and Lyn Hubbard, teacher; (froat row) Hannah Ruth Harrell, Karlie McDaniel, Addy Morgan McDaniel, and Danna Nobile. Not pictured Katie Bowers Meredith

Dickson, Meghan Kay Donahoe, Mary Clyde Barrett, and Tammy Caruthers, teacher. Grades 4-6

pictured, back row) a m m y Harrell, teacher; Lanna Burkhaleter; Kassandra Crawford; Mallory Spencer; Natalie Nobile; Julie Nobile, teacher; (front row) Krislee

GA Recognition Ceremony Crawford, and Jennifer Sykes. Not pictured are Olivia Barrett and Anna Claire Sykes.

4-6 grade GAs of First Church, Indianola

Benton-Tippah Association, held a note burning ceremony on July 30 during the morning worship service. Pictured (from left) are Steven Essary, pastor, and Bonnie Mauney, deacon.

Orientation for a new Weigh Down class will be held Sept. 10 and 17 at Main Street Church, Childcare Hattiesburg. requests must be made by noon on Sept. 5. For more information call Steve Bublitz at (601) 296-8000.

Note burning at Lebanon Church,
Benton-Tippah Association For general information on The Weigh Down Workshop call (800) 844-5208.

GriefShare Workshop will be held at Main Street Chrurch, Hattiesburg, Sept. 16 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Cost \$12 includes light lunch. Registration and childcare requests must be made by noon on Sept. 11. GriefShare support group will meet at Main Street Church each Sunday at 4:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 17. For more information, call (601) 296-8000.

Bayou View Church, Gulfport, will begin a 9 a.m. contemporary worship service on Sept 10. Sunday School will be at 10 a.m. followed by a traditional service at 11 a.m.

Living Sonlight will be in concert Saturday, Aug. 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Bethel Church, Drew.



Farmhaven Church, Canton, will celebrate its 75th anniversary on Sept. 24. Activities begin at 9:30 a.m. Charles Gentry is pastor.

GA's of Shiloh Church, Big

Creek, sent supplies to Baptist Friendship house in New Orleans. The girls take an offering each week in order to purchase these supplies. Each girl wrote a short note and included it in the package. Pictured are Ashley Martin, Simpson, Monica Rounsaville, Nikki Rachel Martin, Alexis Burke, Jeri-Laken Alexander, and Gayla Alexander. GA director is Ann



GAs of Shiloh Church, Big Creek

Magee, evangelist; Gerald

Siloam, Magee: Aug. 27-30; Sunday, 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Sullivan,

Aultman, pastor. Iuka, Iuka: Aug. 27-30; 7 p.m. nightly; Burt Harper, Tupelo, evangelist; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music;

Jim Manley, pastor.

East Pleasant Grove, Quitman: Aug. 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Hill, Laurel, evangelist; The Hill Family, music; Paul A. Childress, pastor.

First, Canton: Aug. 27-Aug. 30; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon. and Tues., 7 p.m.; Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon services; Sunday, Harold Bryson, Mississippi College, evangelist, and Darko Velichkovski, music; Register, Mon., Dean

Hattiesburg, evangelist, and Ninth Hour, music; Tues., Randy Turner, Laurel, evangelist, and Allan Harris, Oxford, music; Wed., Bill Hurt, pastor, evangelist, and Chris Turner, Canton, music; and Frank Pollard, Jackson, evangelist, noon services.

New Palestine, Picayune: Sept. 10-13; Sunday, 10:30 a.m., covered dish lunch, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Salaam Schorrosh, New Orleans, guest pastor; Jessie Bennett, Meridian, music; Gary Roberts, pastor.

Concord (Tippah): Aug. 27-31; 7 p.m.; Bill Foley, Union County, evangelist; church wide meal before service on Sunday; Gary Kennedy, music; Robert E. Walker, pastor.

North Greenwood Baptist Church

615 Grand Blvd.◆ Greenwood Mississippi presents

SANDI PATTY IN CONCERT





September 22 at 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6 p.m.)

Tickets are \$10. Reserve yours today by calling (662) 453-2801. www.ngbc.com



Call toll free 1-800-737-1331

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J. G. Thomas of Friendship East East Church, Charleston, was honored on May 14 for his 30th anniversary as pastor. Pictured with Thomas (left) is his wife Elizabeth.

Three members of Antioch Church, Brandon, were presented with certificates and pins for having completed and passed requirements for certification in Evangelism Explosion, following 13 weeks of intensive training. They were Heather Thornton, Vickie Craft, and Cynthia Stuart.

Doug Carter. is a newlyelected deacon at Antioch Church, Brandon.

Woodville Heights Church, honored Jackson, Sandifer, minister of students and activities, for five years of service. He is pictured with his wife Allie and daughter Debbie.



The Sandifers

Staff Changes

Road Church, ackson, has called Arthur Whitehead as assistant pastor. previously Whitehead has served churches in Smith, Kemper, Rankin, and Metro associations; and New Orleans, La. Joe Wiggins is pastor.

Russell Church, Meridian, called Chancelor as pastor effective Aug. 6. Chancelor previously served for six years in evangelism.



Chancelor

Tom D. Sumrall Hattiesburg, has accepted the call of Salem Church, Raleigh, to serve as interim pastor. He and his wife Jane recently completed an assignment on the island of Antiqua with the International Mission Board.

Marion Spence has resigned as pastor of Antioch Church, Brandon, and will be moving to Baskin, La. where he will be pastoring. Spence served at Antioch for eight years. A going away reception was held recently and he and his family were presented a money tree, cards, and gifts. Hayes Patrick served as childrens' and youth activities director at Antioch Church for the summer.

Michael's Watch



the body of Moses,

"The Lord rebuke you." - Jude 1:9

Michael's Watch is a support group whose sole purpose and mission is to offer emotional, mental, and spiritual support for those whose lives have been affected by family members or loved ones involved in the homosexual lifestyle.

Michael's Watch Group meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month at First Baptist Church in Louisville, Mississippi from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Additional information may be obtained by calling First Baptist Church in Louisville, Mississippi at (662) 773-6246.

Oscar Russell has recently retired from the pastoral ministry. He previously served as pastor of East Howard Church, Biloxi. He has served at Calvary Church, Meridian; Trinity Church, Vicksburg; Church, Delisle; Success Church and Forrest Avenue Church, Biloxi. He also served as state chaplain of the Good Sam's Club for six years and Mission Service Corp. Volunteer, North American Mission Board in Montana and Wyoming. Russell is a graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. He is available to share many unique stories with the people of Mississippi and can be contacted at 346 Tanglewood Drive, Biloxi, MS 39531; telephone (228) 388-2910; or his e-mail is HelenR29@aol.com.

Don Lum, youth consultant in the evangelism department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, has been called as interim pastor of Calvary Church in Canton. He previously served as minister of youth and activities at First Church, Columbia, from 1979-1997. Lum is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

Leesburg Church, Rankin

Association, called Clay Norwood as minister of students on June 18. He is a graduate of William Carey College and formerly served as minister of youth

at First Church, Sanford.

McDonald Mark

Norwood

resigned as pastor of Old Pearl Valley Church in Neshoba County. He is available for pulpit supply, revivals, and interim pastor and can be reached at (601) 635-2835 or 2028 Ledlow Road, Newton, MS 39345. McDonald has been in the ministry for 25 years and is working on his master degree in Bible.

Hill Duck Church, Association, Montgomery called Travis Gray as pastor effective June 1. A native of Pelahatchie, Gray received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Black Jack Church, Vaughan.

Rocky Point Church, Carthage, has called Danny Sephton of Brandon as interim

William Wright resigned at Rocky Point Church, Carthage. He accepted a call to McDowell Road Church, Jackson, as pastor.

The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College is offering a course to assist individuals who are preparing to take the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). The one-day course will be held Sat., Sept. 9 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Cost is \$125. Registration deadline is Sept. 1. For more information, call Carole Moore at (601) 925-3265.

The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College will "Understanding and Appreciating Art," a six-week,

non-credit class, on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m.-noon. The course will be held at the Mississippi Museum of Art beginning Sept. 9. Cost is \$60. Participants will have access to the art galleries and permanent collection. For more informa-tion, call (601) 925-3263 or email continuing-ed@mc.edu.

Blue Mountain College (BMC) department of music will present Edward Ludlow in his 39th faculty organ recital on

Sept. 5 in Lowrey Memorial Church, Blue Mountain. He will be assisted by his wife Anita and the recital, which begins at 8 p.m., is dedicated to E. Harold Fisher, president of BMC, in honor of his 35 years of service. Ludlow is associate professor of organ and church music at BMC and the music director of First United Methodist Church in Ripley. Anita Ludlow, a native of Pontotoc, is music director of Ripley Presbyterian Church.

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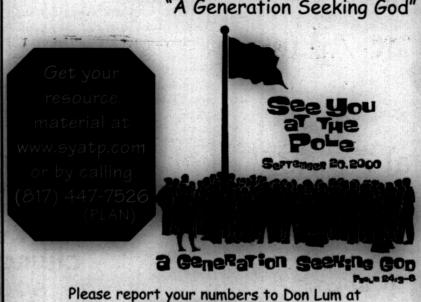


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THE BAPTIST RECORD-

CONTINUE WARNING

The recent editorial, Coming to a school near you, was very timely. I appreciate the warning concerning the efforts of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network to further their agenda in the South.

Have Southern Baptists become afraid to stand up and call the sin of homosexuality what it is an abomination to Almighty God? Are we so engrossed in numbers in Sunday School that we have forgotten that a Holy God demands holy living by his people? God demands holy living in all areas of life, not just a select few that do not place restrictions on our practices.

The companion guest opinion, "On-site casino ministry: right or wrong?" was right on target. It seems as though we will tolerate almost anything in the name of "ministry." The statement, "While the sinner needs our ministry, the sinful establishment does not deserve our endorsement by our presence," is very appropriate.

Please continue to raise the flag of warning on moral and ethical issues!

V. Afton Anderson Gulfport

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Editor:

Just a note to thank you for the stands you have been taking in your articles in The Baptist Record. Not too many preach-

ers take big stands any more; they seem to want to avoid conflict. I see more and more of this world's effort to raise the image of gambling, drinking, immoral lifestyles, the use of Sunday, and any other vice that seems to be against God's plan for our lives. Please keep it up.

Steven Warren McComb

RIGHTLY DIVIDE WORD

Editor:

In reply to the gentlemen's letter, Word is authority, I would like to humbly say that God's Word is given for our inspiration by "rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). You can take a part of God's Word here and a bit there and prove anything, but we must see the whole, inspired Word to live in a that pleases and honors God (2 Tim. 3:16). I suggest in love, Gal. 2:38 — "There is neither... male or female," and Acts 2:17 — "... Your sons and daughters will prophesy...," (preach).
For those unfamiliar with the

beginning of Baptist problems, it began earlier than 1987 when a small group of men led by Judge Paul Pressler and Paige Patterson carried out a strategy for capture and take over of the Southern Baptist Convention. From that time forward, every part of our Christ-led Baptist denomination has diminished spiritually.

The takeover group is replac-ing all agencies and institutions, using their laws and enforcing them by signatures of all employees of seminaries, etc. God isn't asleep; he is fully aware and will in his own time make everything right. Lou Carroll

Biloxi

NO MONOPOLY

Editor:

In response to the letter to the editor entitled, Stand up against hate, in which Gary Myers of Kansas City calls for the removal of the Confederate flag and disparages the Southern white's understanding of his own history, I have a few comments.

Being against "hatred and racism" is commendable, but Southern whites have no monopoly on either. Even as I write, Jessie Jackson and other "civil rights activists," having run short on legitimate causes of late, are stumping the state in a desperate effort to create issues which will keep donations coming in and their names in the news.

Being against "symbols of divisiveness" is likewise commendable, assuming a consensus can be reached as to which symbols should be eliminated. For instance, Myers points out that the Confederate flag has been appropriated by the KKK and other "extremist groups." Well, so have the cross, the Bible, and the national flag! Would he suggest that we do away with these as well?

I find Myers' letter personally offensive and insulting and I am appalled that The Baptist Record would print a letter which slan-ders both the integrity of Confederate Baptists who created the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and the intelligence of their descendants who comprise most of the SBC membership. Roy King Natchez

BAN CROSS?

Editor:

I do not believe that The Baptist Record is the proper forum for views and misviews of the Confederate battle flag; a regular newspaper would be more fitting. However, as the subject has come up, I would like to pose a few questions to (letter writer) Gary Myers.

As the St. Andrews and Christian crosses have both been used by the KKK and other racist groups, would you also ban the Christian cross as a

degrading symbol?
Would you add religion, along with culture and heritage, as something to not put before your neighbor? If you would, then place Mohammed, then place Mohammed, Buddha, and even Baal on the same level as Jesus.

Whether or not the state flag is a symbol of hate depends on the perception of the viewer and on the motive of the person dis-

playing it.
To "share the Gospel" means to tell the world that Jesus is the Way, the only Way, and no one comes to the Father except through him. Do you know that to many people this idea is just as racist, bigoted, and hateful as the Confederate battle flag? Since you value things accord-

ing to what people think about them, do you think we should throw the flag and the Bible in the same hole and cover them up lest we offend someone?

Gene Colburn Amory

TRIBUTE TO WEST

Editor:

This is a tribute to Dan West's retirement (as manager of Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko). We served as Royal Ambassador (RA) leaders and directors for many years. We had the privilege and honor of meeting Dan through RA camps and Lad/Dad week-ends. He has shown so much love for the boys, parents, and leaders.

Once we visited a Thursday night campfire service at Central Hills. At the conclusion of that service, scores of young men responded to Dan's invitation by making life-changing decisions. He has touched and blessed so many lives, including ours.

His life, work, and dedication have demonstrated the love of God. May God continue to bless Dan's ministry.

Gerald & Doris Pittman Tupelo



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Homecomings

Alexander . Memorial (Washington): Sept. 10; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch; Bob O'Neal, former pastor, preaching.

Sylvarena, (Copiah): Sept. 10; celebrating 102 years; 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; 1:15 p.m. service; Mark Dearman, former pastor, speaker; memorial to Clarice Watson, organ fund.

Bartahatchie (Monroe); Sept. 17; James Fletcher, former pastor, will preach at 11 a.m.; New Horizons from Breman, Ala., will sing at 1 p.m.

New Haven, Terry: Aug. 27; 10:30 a.m. service followed by covered dish lunch and congregational singing; Wiley Reid, former pastor, preaching; Ralph Jackson, former member, piano; Donna Albright, leading the singing. Doug McDaniel, pastor.

New Hope, Tupelo: Aug. 27; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; noon meal; Lyndle Davis, guest speaker; Jeff Chamblee, music; Lowell Johnson, pastor.

Moak's Creek (Lincoln): 130th anniversary; Aug. 27; 10 and 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch at noon followed by music service at 1:15 p.m.; Billy J. Howse, pastor, preaching; Eddie Thornhill, music.

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Tanzania experiencing openness to Gospel

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (BP) — Missionaries in Tanzania are calling for volunteers to share the gospel with thousands of Muslims who have shown

Indian

tremendous openness to the

gospel. A total of 367 people accepted Christ when 10 volunteers from Kentucky partnered with Vingunguti Baptist Church Dar Salaam for a 10day outreach to Zaramo the people.

During the first day, the group prayer-walked around the community. Then they began evangelism and taught discipleship classes for children and adults. The gospel was presented in more than 700 homes.

They showed the "Jesus" film twice, and predominantly Muslim crowds of 700 to 1,000 people gathered to watch it.

This victory is amazing to those who are

familiar with the people group.

The Zaramo are a tribal group with strong ties to Islam. Ninety-eight percent hold to traditional animistic beliefs under a veneer of folk Islam. The Zaramo people traditionally have been hard to reach with the gospel because commitment to Islam is

expected.
"Witchcraft, sorcery, and black magic are widely practiced among the Zaramo, and as a result most live in perpetual fear and darkness," says Kevin Barnes, an International Mission Board missionary to Tanzania.

Barnes and his wife, Sonya, began a new work among the unreached Zaramo in 1998, when they were appointed as church planters and developers in the area.

In January, missionaries Doug and Karen Lehman joined them to establish a

medical ministry among the people.

The team has been conducting a worldview and ethnographic study on the

"Only until we come to a clear understanding as to who the Zaramo are and what worldview they hold will we begin to know what strategies will be most effective in establishing an indigenous church planting movement among them," Barnes says.

"Reach the Wazaramo of Dar" is a yearlong project Barnes has developed to involve a partnership of Southern Baptist volunteers and Tanzanian Baptists to reach the people group for Christ.

The volunteer group from Kentucky helped complete the first phase. The second phase involves a second team of volunteers to join the local Baptist church with a more balanced approach to evangelism and discipleship within the group.

Phase three calls for a third group of volunteers to concentrate on discipling the new Zaramo believers so they can establish study groups among themselves.

The project is heavily dependent on Southern Baptist volunteers from the United States. Without their response, the plans will not succeed.

"People are not responding. We need more laborers who are willing to come and serve alongside their missionaries and fellow Tanzanian brethren," Barnes says.

French proposal drawing protests from Baptists

WASHINGTON (BP) Baptists in France are keeping a close watch on an anti-sect law that was approved by the French National Assembly in June and which goes to Senate for approval in September.

While freedom to proclaim the gospel has not yet been affected, the bill has made the religious situation in France, a predominantly Roman Catholic country, more difficult for the minority Protestant groups and certainly for other groups, which have been labeled as sects.

The genesis of the bill is the fear in France of groups such as the Order of the Solar Temple, whose members committed suicide in Canada, Switzerland, and France in 1994 and 1995. A key concern in the proposed law is "mental manipulation," which would be severely punished.

A quasi-governmental list tallies more than 170 groups or organizations considered to be dangerous. The list was compiled without any input from the parties listed, such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Scientologists, and Unification Church.

The concern of the Federation of Evangelical Baptist Churches (FEBC) is that the bill, titled "Human Rights and Public Liberties," can be misused, said Etienne Lhermenault, FEBC general secretary.

The situation in France "has been made infinitely more complicated by the vast ignorance of the French as far as religion is concerned," he said.

He also criticized the media for their "confusing generalizations and by the mediocre level of their information on Protestantism and the evangelical churches." One of the groups targeted as sects are the French Pentecostals, for example.

The FEBC has reminded that France, which did not grant freedom of worship until 1905, is a secular state, and French law affirms that the state recognizes no church or religion but guarantees to all the right to worship freely in private.

The majority of Protestant churches, including French Baptists, have approached various governmental offices to intervene on behalf of Christian communities that had been unjustly accused during deliberations over the law.

There is also concern in the worldwide religious community that this move to identify religious groups and put them under the control of the state is a growing one not only in France but also in Germany, Austria, Belgium and other countries in Western Europe.

"It is a sad day that in the beginning of the 21st century universal religious freedom continues to be restricted, not only in Eastern Europe but in Western Europe," said Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance. "For 500 years Baptists have died for and defended religious freedom for all peoples and all religions. Indeed, the concept of religious freedom for all is the historical contribution of Baptists to not only western civilization but to the world.

"We must be continually vigilant in protecting religious freedom, in majority and minority situations, Lotz con-

tinued. "Baptists generally agree that where religious freedom is denied, the denial of other freedoms soon follows. Of course, ultimately, as Baptists we believe that religious freedom comes from Christ who is the truth [that can] make you free."

In early August, the World Evangelical Fellowship's Liberty E-mail Religious Conference issued a statement to the United Nations jointly with Advocates International of Washington D.C. and Christian Solidarity Worldwide in the United Kingdom.
Under the proposed law's

prohibition against a religious group "creating a state of mental or physical dependence," the statement noted, "Power is given to the State to dissolve religious groups and impose sentences of up to 5 years and fines of up to 500,000 French Francs.

"The vagueness of the wording appears to seriously infringe upon the freedom of speech, including speech intended to persuade another person to a particular point of view, whether philosophical, political, or religious," the three groups' statement noted. "At various points in its consideration of religious freedom the international community has clearly recognized that the freedom to share one's beliefs is integral to certain religions and is contained within the rights of both freedom of religion and freedom of expression. Without the freedom to speak and the related freedom to hear ideas there can be no true freedom of belief as protected under inter-national law. The bill threatens to undermine these rights and to set an unsuitable precedent in the region."



My 14-year-old is very vulnerable right now to the ways of the world. How do I keep her on the right path with God and not lose my relationship with her in the

Join her on the path. A day should not go by that you fail to let her know that you are praying for her and love her. She is searching for her place in the world; find ways to encourage her to be the person that God created her to be. Look for ways to affirm her and address her God-given qualities -

while the world is addressing her outward appearances and trying to get her to conform to its low standards. Show her the higher road, the road less traveled, and give her confidence in everything she does. Allow her to stumble and fall, but be there when she falters to lift her up and brush her off. You cannot make all the decisions for her, but you can be a listening ear and her source for truth. Give as much appropriate physical touch as you can without being "soupy." Share your struggles and let her see that faith is

active and vital and not just a "church" thing. As your child moves to adulthood through adolescence, she needs to understand life is difficult but that family and God are two sources to which she can turn for strength and power. Don't get frustrated if this takes longer than you anticipated. Things have usually settled down by the age of 17, and the possibility exists for a flourishing relationship. Hang on tight and enjoy the ride (when you can). You'll be glad you were alongside.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. In central Mississippi, Ron Mumbower can be heard from 9-10 a.m. each Wednesday on WHJT-FM 93.5. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Grace of life Philemon 1-25

By Juanita West

In the Epistle to Philemon, Paul showed his great concern for the salvation of all men as well as his desire to see all believers grow in their faith. This Epistle is a personal letter from Paul to Philemon, a believer in the church at Colossae. In this letter, Paul presented a perfect picture of Christ's love and grace.

Prayers (vv. 4-7). Paul began his Epistle with the customary salutation and with his oftenused words of thanksgiving, which are personally addressed to Philemon: "I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers" (v. 4).

making mention of you always in my prayers" (v. 4).

Paul had great appreciation for Philemon because of the faith in Christ and the love for

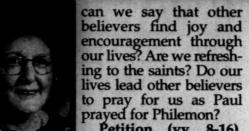
the saints that Philemon had demonstrated. Wiersbe says, "Philemon sounds like the kind of man any of

us would want to know or be!" (Expository Outlines of the New Testament, p. 389).

Paul prayed that Philemon's faith would continue to be strong and effective. He affirmed Philemon's testimony of love as a great, "joy and consolation" in his life as well as a "refreshment for the hearts of the saints" (v. 7).

As a result of what he had heard about the faithfulness of the followers, Paul once again acknowledged how his heart had been blessed even though he was in prison.

As we examine our own lives,



West

retition (vv. 8-16).

After he affirmed Philemon's love for all the saints, Paul pleaded for

forgiveness and mercy on behalf of Philemon's slave, Onesimus. From background study, we understand that Onesimus had run away from his master and had evidently taken something from Philemon. Onesimus' journey brought him into contact with Paul, who led Onesimus to the Lord. Paul then petitioned Philemon to help Onesimus make a clean slate of his wrongs.

Paul could have commanded Philemon's forgiveness: "Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting" (v. 8). Instead, he sought

Philemon's support: "I rather appeal to you; I appeal to you for my son Onesimus" (vv. 9-10). Paul encouraged Philemon to accept Onesimus back, not only as his servant but also as his equal in Christ.

Paul desired to see Philemon accept Onesimus "voluntarily." Philemon's forgiveness of the deed had to come from his love for God, not from a command. Paul's desire was for Philemon to "receive him (Onesimus) forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave — a beloved brother" (vv. 15-16).

Partnership (vv. 17-21). Paul completely established Onesimus' newfound relationship in Christ and thus his partnership with fellow believers. With his personal promise: "I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. I will repay" (v. 19), Paul not only morally but also legally obligated himself to Onesimus' debt (Bible Knowledge Commentary, p. 774). Wiersbe calls verse 19, "An official form

of an IOU back in Paul's day" (p. 390). What a beautiful picture these verses offer of Christ's gift of redemption for all who believe. Our sins were put on Christ's account and his blood paid our sin debt.

Paul's actions toward Onesimus are the epitome of his words to the church at Ephesus: "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving, one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven

you" (Eph. 4:32).

Is there someone you must forgive and accept just as Paul urged Philemon to do? Is your partnership with fellow believers in Christ complete? Paul had such confidence in Philemon that he believed Philemon would "do even more than I say" (v. 22). Are you willing to go the second mile? "Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord, refresh my heart in the Lord" (v. 20).

West is a member of Calvary Church, Newton.

LIFE AND WORK

When time will be no more 2 Peter 3:1-18

By Matt Loving

What does the future hold and how does it affect the present? Recently, I saw a billboard that had a close-up painting of Christ hanging on the cross staring at me. Beside it the following words are written: "Consider your ways."

In light of the end of time and the future life in eternity, all people must consider seriously their relationship with God and whether their life is in line with his will for them. Christ offers a lifestyle that does not meet standards for immediate gratification and success, but it does guarantee eternal life, hope, and blessing as well as lasting fulfillment in the here and now.

A Christian worldview focuses on a lifestyle that leads to long-term meaning in the midst

of a now-centered world. Second Peter chapter 3 provides us with great insight to the reality of the end of time, the importance of the present time, and the implications upon how we must now choose to allow God to enable us to live.

Time will end (vv. 3-7). Peter blatantly proclaimed that no matter what the "scoffers" seemingly understood about time, God is faithful and in control and will keep his promise for a new heaven and earth that will come after the divine judgment on the current order.



Loving

The Christian world-view is that God's historical acts from creation forward provide a basis for the hope that God, not death, holds the future. Believers must take heart and be patient in the face of those who would antagonize about the seeming delay of Christ's final coming.

Time is opportunity (vv. 8-9). What many see as a delay in the end of time is in reality an expression of God's patience and desire that no one perish but that all come to repentance. This is an often-quoted verse for offering comfort during distressing times. In light of the world's certain destruction, these verses also call out for believers to live holy lives and be on mission with Jesus to seek and to save that which is lost (Luke 19:10) within their sphere of influence.

Eternity will begin (vv. 10, 12b-13). Apart from whatever

your understanding is concerning the rapture, these inspired Scriptures written by Peter grant insight concerning the good news and the bad news about what it will be like when time is no more.

The bad news: one day repentance will no longer be an option, God will destroy the world as we know it. The good news: Christ will return to take home his followers to the new heaven and earth as he promised (John 14:1-4) and there God's people will live in righteousness forever.

righteousness forever.

Live now in light of eternity (11-12a,14-15a). Peter gives the exhortation to live holy and godly lives, not religious lives. Believers are to make every effort to show love, be found blameless, and invite others to adopt the same lifestyle birthed out of a relationship with God through faith in Jesus.

Recently I learned a bit of truth about how Christ's return

must affect our daily lives. As I prepared for my wife's return from a long road trip, I made sure to ready the house and myself as best as I knew how so that she would truly have a warm welcome home. I didn't have to do any of those things but it was a privilege to do them out of my love for her.

Everyone has the privilege of having a daily intimate relationship with the Heavenly Father through faith in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit working in them. As you consider "when time will be no more" and the implications of that upon your life and the lives of those around you, remember that life is not about us, it's about Jesus.

is not about us, it's about Jesus.

What a privilege we have been afforded to be children, friends, and servants of the one true living God. He who promised is faithful (Heb. 10:19-39 and 1 Thess. 5:21-24).

10:19-39 and 1 Thess. 5:21-24).

Loving is minister of youth at Oak Hill Church, Poplarville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

The great invitation
Revelation 21:5-8: 22:10-17

By Tommy Bufkin

I was discussing the Second Coming of Christ with a church member. "Aren't you looking forward to the day when the Lord comes?" I asked. "Oh, no," came the answer. "I want him to come but not right now." Then the professed believer began to tell me that he had to clean up some things before the Lord came. Isn't that silly? You are either ready or you are not.

either ready or you are not.

The Book of Revelation ends with a cry for Jesus to come. One day when he is least expected he will come. He also seeks to come into the life of every unbeliever.

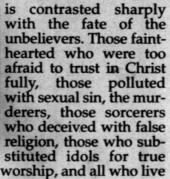
Free gift offered (21:5-8). With possibly the exception of

verse 1:8, this is the only time in Revelation that God speaks. He affirms that

he is in the process of making all things new and that his words are true and faithful to himself. He is on the throne; he has the power.

"Alpha" and "Omega" are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They symbolize the beginning and end of all things. God reveals himself as the one who originates and completes all things. "Thirsts" indicates the longings and wishes of man that cannot be satisfied outside of God. God offers his free gift of salvation to every person who desires it.

The reward of the righteous



a lie experience the second death in everlasting torment separated from God.

Open invitation extended (22:10-17). The prophet Daniel is told to seal up his book. In contrast John is told, "do not seal up the words of the prophecy." This indicates that the message is to be open and available for all persons of every generation.

Verse 11 is difficult to interpret. It could be that the moral decisions and habit become character that becomes fixed and irrevocable. Another interpretation is that the Lord's

coming will be so swift that there will be no last-minute opportunity for repentance. People should repent while they can. Conviction is always an invitation to repent.

an invitation to repent.

As emphasized in other parts of the New Testament, God's judgment is based on works. Works condemn. Salvation is only by grace since no one can earn salvation by works. Here Christ claims the title God used of himself (21:6) emphasizing his oneness with the Father.

This last beatitude is for those who are spiritually pure. They have the right to two things. They have eternal life and can enter the holy city in triumph. The unbeliever, however, is on the outside of redemption experiencing the second death. These sinners are identified as earlier (21:8) with the exception of "dogs." This term was used to point to the outcast, the despised, and the

The book is the "revelation of Jesus Christ." It is fitting then that Jesus speaks at the end to put his authentication on it. He identifies himself two ways. He is descended from King David as the fulfillment of prophecies and is, therefore, the rightful King. "Bright and Morning Star" identifies him as the herald of a new day.

Some understand verse 17 to be a call from the Holy Spirit and the bride (church) for Christ to come quickly as he said he would. However, others view the call as an invitation to the lost to come to Christ for salvation. Certainly, the latter part of the verse clearly points to the unsaved and appears to support the interpretation of an invitation to salvation.

Believers should warn unbelievers of their urgent need to accept the free gift of salvation through Christ while there is still time.

Bufkin is pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Rankin Association.



Bufkin



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

- 1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
- I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
- 3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.

 (I believe in Jesus.)
- 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.

 (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Bibliocipher

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UDE KZEVIDE YTZEV ZE
ZF ZBGIFFZUAX EI
GAXTFX VZB: YIO VX EVTE
SIBXEV EI RIW BDFE
UXAZXJX EVTE VX ZF,
TCW EVTE VX ZF T OXKTOWXO IY EVXB EVTE
WZAZRXCEAM FXXQ VZB.

VXUOXKF XAXJXC: FZL

Clue: U = B
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last

week's puzzle: Acts One: Seven.

World Changers leading lost to salvation

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — A student working with World Changers led a man to the Lord who worked as a "bouncer" in a bar in Waukegan, Ill., earlier this summer.

"Each day this bouncer would go get his car loaded with his friends and bring them back, saying, 'You've got to hear this. You got to hear this," said Jon Hodge, a World Changers national missionary for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Also in Waukegan, one of the World Changers youth led two children, 8 and 11 years old, to Christ near one of the group's work sites. The next day, their dad came with them — and became one of 175 people who accepted Christ through World Changers that week in Waukegan.

In that project and 64 others like it across the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico this summer, World Changers demonstrated a concern not only for patching up substandard housing — but also for introducing people to a Savior who can rebuild lives.

More than 1,544 individuals made professions of faith in Christ during the projects. And participation jumped nearly 30% to 16,917 students and their adult sponsors

"As so often Jesus did, World Changers enters with the touch of ministry to hurting needs," said Robert E. Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board, which coordinates the ministry.

"I am so proud of thousands of young people who are willing to get out of their comfort zones, work hard, reach into the inner cities of our land and all the while be intent on sharing the gospel with

those in need," he added. "We are seeing thousands upon thousands of students stepping forward to volunteer for short-term missions. May their tribe increase!"

World Changers since 1990 has offered Christian youth a prepackaged missions opportunity to actively live out their faith. While staying in local schools and churches, participants work on "crews" doing construction or volunteer work in low-income areas selected by World Changers and local government agencies. The evenings provide an exciting combination of high-energy worship and team-building activities.

Crews were deployed to a total of 1,261 work sites — usually homes in need of new roofing, painting, or other improvements. The gospel was shared more than 8,500 times, usually with residents and neighbors.

Participants themselves also made personal commitments to missions involvement that organizers point to as one of the primary goals of the ministry. A total of 330 students made commitments to summer and semester missions, and another 358 made commitments to career missions service. One hundred sixty of the participants made professions of faith — in addition to the 1,544 professions of faith made by members of the communities in which World Changers worked.

The sharp increase in professions of faith reflected a further refining of how evangelism is emphasized during the projects, said Andy Morris, manager of student volunteer mobilization for NAMB.

A servant-evangelism effort last year — door-to-door distribution of free light bulbs — was designed to place more of a

priority on evangelism. "What we recognized was that although we had about 250 get saved in that one event, the majority of the professions of faith were happening at the work site," he said. "So we made a strategic move to put more emphasis on teaching students to share their faith at the work site.

"It reinforces that witnessing is part of your everyday life. It's not just a special event," Morris added. "By making it part of the work site, it's part of everything that you do."

Another area of strong growth was in the offering World Changers participants gave for missions. A total of \$144,725 was given, up from \$95,844 last year. Out of the goal of \$100,000 for the offering this year, the agency had planned to sponsor four semester missionaries to work in Canada. The much higher number means they will be able to do more.

"I think the offering has been one of the most significant things," Morris said. "That means that students are not only committing themselves to a lifestyle of missions ... but they're also giving toward missions. And I think that makes World Changers a well-rounded mission education experience."

World Changers will have a total of 83 projects worldwide in the summer of 2001, reflecting continued growth. Plans are for NAMB to coordinate a total of 69 projects in the United States and Puerto Rico. The number of international projects — which are coordinated through the International Mission Board — will increase from seven this year to 14 next year.

For more information on World Changers, visit www.studentz.com/wc on the Internet or send e-mail to volunteers@namb.net.

War-displaced pastors in Congo get BWA help

"[M]ore than 80 WASHINGTON (BP) pastors continue to Displaced pastors of the live outside their Baptist Community in congregations Central Africa (BCCA) in a very bad have received help in war-torn Congo from Baptist World Aid (BWAid), the situation like relief and development arm of Baptist World Alliance. Congo's "foolish and absurd war," as

absurd war," as BCCA legal representative Mauka Mathe Bulalo described it in a letter to the BWA, has left a trail of death at the hands of rebels and militiamen since strife broke out anew in August 1998.

The Baptist convention has lost or has been compelled to close 25 schools, 12 health centers, and 50 congregations in North and South Kivu provinces during this time, Bulalo reported. Baptists have also lost two pastors and their families, more than 100 members had been killed and many women and girls have been raped, Bulalo stated.

"It is difficult to give a complete account of all the bad things that have happened since Aug. 2, 1998," Bulalo noted.

Bulalo's letter thanked BWAid "for the great help for those pastors who were in extreme need" to buy clothes and kitchen utensils and obtain medical care against cholera.

refugees in their own country," Bulalo reported.

There are 280 churches and more than 1 million members in this Baptist convention situated in the heart of the civil war in 'the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Republic of Congo.

More than 46 people at Kibirizi Village were killed by gunfire or burned in their houses in January, Bulalo reported, adding that people who came to comfort the survivors two days later also were attacked and 10 of them were killed.

"Currently there are more than 90,000 displaced people who live out of their homes," Bulalo said.

Another attack at the Bambu/Kirumba village in June left more than 50 people killed and many houses burned, he reported.
"So many killings are taking

"So many killings are taking place in the north and south of Kivu," Bulalo said, "and the people are suffering a lot because there is not much help from any non-governmental organization."

In his appeal to BWAid, Bulalo said the region's Virunga Hospital is a key place of care for those who have been displaced, but its space is limited and its medical supplies have been depleted.

"This is an emergency situation," Bulalo stated.